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A Cultural Resources Survey of the Burke Landing Levee Slide Repair Coahoma County, Mississippi A Negative Finding Report

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy McNeil

September 1985

Abstract

On 11 September, 1985, an intensive survey of a revetment bank failure was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Staff Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil and Mr. David McNutt (Civil Engineer), conducted the survey.

The project is located in Township 27N, Range 5W, Section 30, SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the Modoc, Mississippi-Arkansas Quadrangle map, Coahoma County, Mississippi.

The proposed work includes repair and maintenance of the existing revetment. All materials and equipment will be brought in by boat.

A pedestrian survey of the revetment area failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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Introduction

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District staff archeologist on 11 September 1985, within the proposed project right-of-way of the Burke Landing Revetment as directed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. This study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CPR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

Project Description

The permit area is located in Coahoma County, Mississippi, Township 27N, Range 5W, Section 30 SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the Modoc Mississippi-Arkansas Quadrangle. An area, approximately 1.4 acres in size, required repairing. The proposed work includes repair and maintenance of the existing revetment. All materials and equipment will be transported by boat. The attached map (Map 1) and aerial photograph (Photo 1) depict the location of the project.

Environmental Setting

This area is located within the Humid Continental Climate zone, which is noted for its hot summers and mild winters. Average annual precipitation is 49.7 inches (126 centimeters) of which approximately 10% is snowfall (Commonwealth 1981).

The basic geologic history is of recent build-up. The uplands are capped with loess in thicknesses ranging from 3-30.5 meters. However, the floodplains are filled with up to 9 meters of recent alluvium.

Most of the surrounding area is in trees and bushes. Most of these trees fall into the oak-hickory, elm-ash and gum-cottonwood-cypress catagories (COE 1973:10).

Fauna of the region includes deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel and various birds and reptiles (COE 1975).

Previous Research

The major research conducted in the area of this survey was performed by Phillips, Ford and Griffin (1951). Later, 1949-1955, Phillips (1970) surveyed the Lower Yazoo River Basin.

Portions of northern Mississippi have been unsystematically surveyed by Dr. Gerald Smith (1971) since the early 1960's.

Results of the Records Search

A search of the Mississippi Records File was not conducted because (1) of the areas small size; and (2) the fact that the area has been previously disturbed. However, the National Register of Historic Places was consulted and no sites were listed within the project area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The survey conducted on 11 September 1985, consisted of walking over the failing area. The areas beside and behind the failure was in trees and bushes. Thus, subsurface shovel cuts were excavated every 30 meters for 60.96 meters around the failure. No artifacts, stains, or other cultural resource indicators were found around the failure.

Recommendations

As no cultural remains or indicators were found within the failure area; and all equipment and materials will be brought in by boat, it is recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage by stopping construction until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Analysis Branch, Memphis District, U.S. Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Office of Mississippi Division of Historic Preservation.

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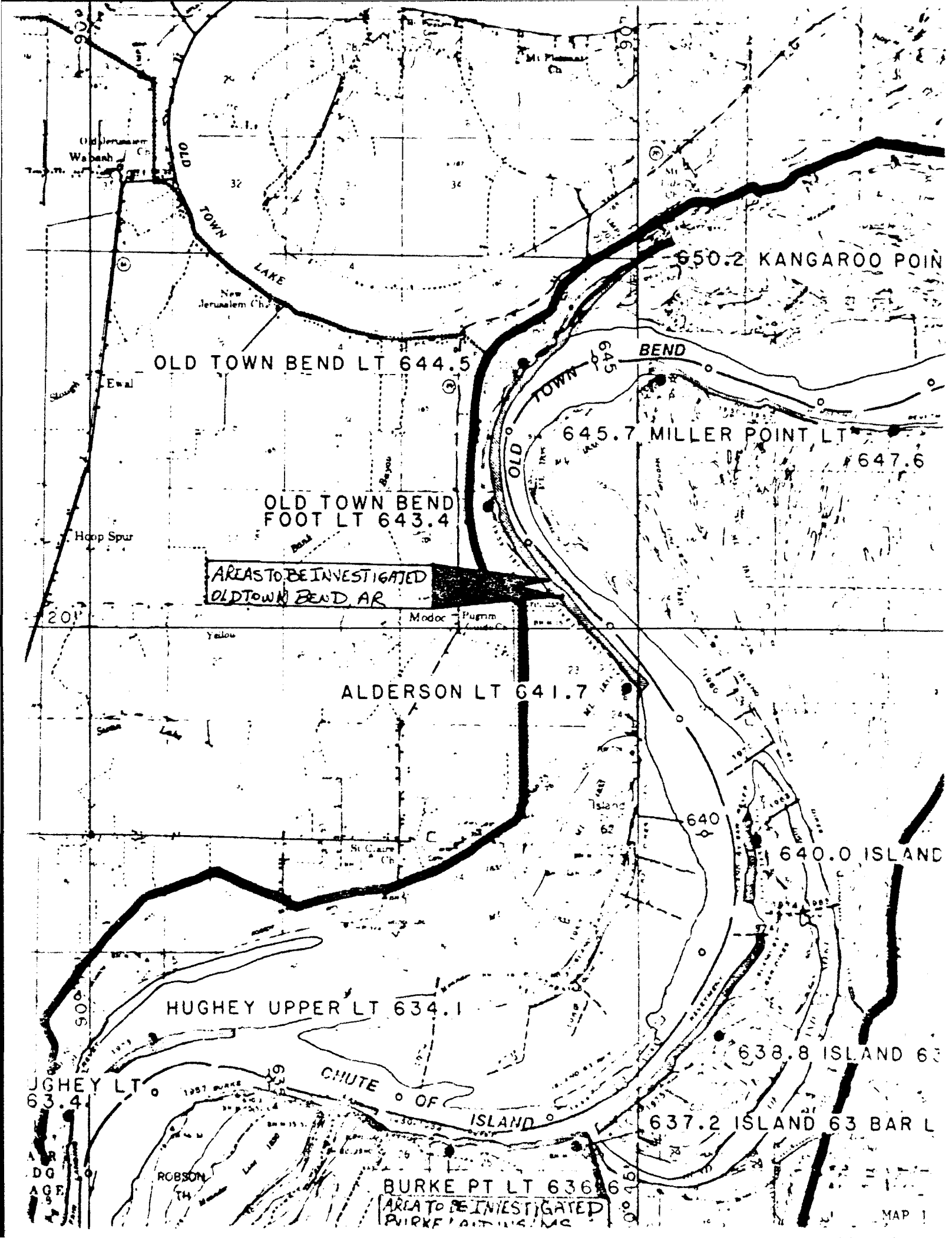
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640.0 ISLAND
HUGHEY UPPER LT 634.1
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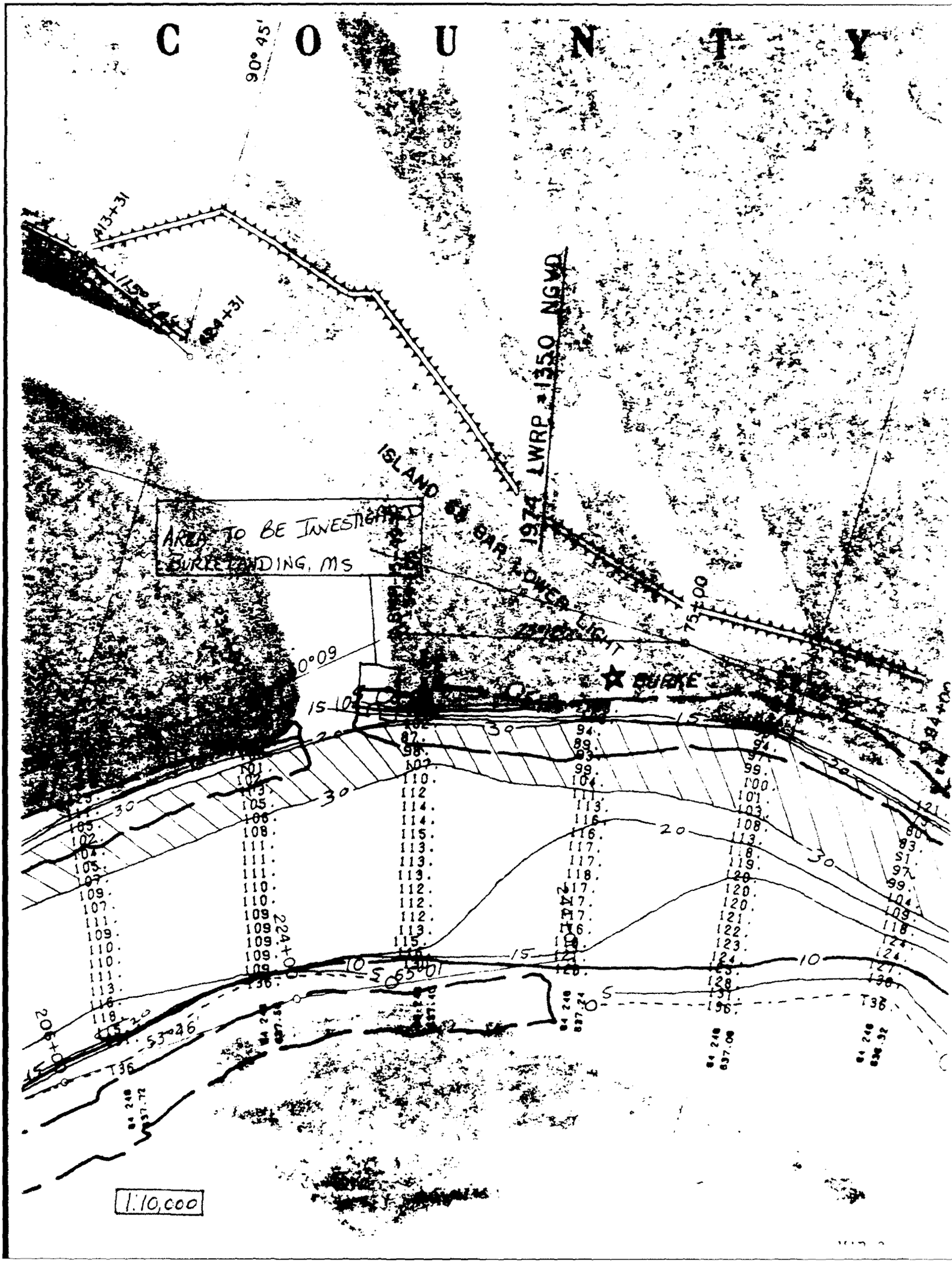
AREA TO BE INVESTIGATED
MAP 1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